

## House Republican Press Release

September 8, 2004  
Press Office: 860-240-8700

### Testimonial to William Schwab



To the Editor:

Like many others, I was crestfallen to learn of the passing of Norwalk Community College's longtime President Bill Schwab. Our region has just lost a truly great man. A man who, even in his final months, continued to strive to achieve the very best future for his beloved Norwalk Community College and the special students that it serves. Words cannot fully describe the loss and the legacy of President William Schwab. Yes, he did develop and grow Norwalk Community College into the largest and most modern of its kind in the state. But more importantly, he was a gentleman, a scholar and a real friend to thousands of people of all races and creeds.

Bill was a unique leader who embraced and included his area legislators in all the College's activities. He developed a close relationship with many of us that transcended the political arena. He was kind, considerate, warm and caring; and his enthusiasm for the college became contagious. In fact, the sheer magnitude of Bill's devotion to the College's mission compelled many of us to join in supporting and funding the school.

Most of all, he opened the way for countless numbers of students to achieve their intellectual potential, learn valuable skills and become productive citizens in a the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy. The students, especially those seeking new lives and new direction, were his cause.

Norwalk Community College is his marvelous legacy, a model for education throughout the nation, an institution that excels in fields ranging from business to technology to healthcare to the arts. He leaves behind a tremendous educational asset for Norwalk and surrounding communities. He accomplished all this, while managing a 30-year personal battle with cancer.

His work in many other community and statewide organizations is not to be overlooked. His dedication to Norwalk and the state was evident in his efforts for the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, the Maritime Aquarium, the YMCA and other groups too numerous to mention.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Carolyn, his family, his grandchildren and all those whose lives he touched and who mourn his passing.

In reality, he was one of a kind, and we will be indebted to him forever.

Toni Boucher  
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